JULY: 2006

THE Artful DODGER

1.*n*. loveable young pickpocket from Lionel Bart's "Oliver!" 2.*n*. printed handbill full of tidings from the W.M.I.&A.A.. with a closing date for contributions of 17th of every month to Alan Cornell on 9844 4995 or alan@commercialventure.com.au

Themes of fidelity and compromise? Yes, but not from the Theatre Company's upcoming production of *Honour* but an earlier staging of our first play, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, 50 years ago. A review is reproduced later in the Dodger.

I guess reminiscing was bound to be a recurring theme in our anniversary year, especially now Pat Anderson has pulled our archives together so well. I thought a few random reports from events past may be of interest over the next few months. And I'm still getting contributions about fond memories as you'll see in the next few pages. Thanks to all the contributors, and thanks for the many kind remarks about the Dodger. And yes, Bill Mitchell got his coat back! Happy days!

DATES TO REMEMBER

31 July ~ Theatre Company Committee Meeting at Deborah Silva's

6 August ~ Painter's Bargain Sale. 10am~4pm at the Hall

11 August ~ Play Reading "Speaking in Tongues" 7.30pm at the Hall

21 August ~ Craft Group 11.30am at the Hall

9 September ~ Music Night at Ann Arnold's

Group reports.

Pottery

Firstly may I congratulate Alan on the first publication of *The Artful Dodger*, definitely a collector's item. Long may you keep it up.

We have launched into third term with gusto although our numbers are somewhat depleted with members seeking the sun in the North.

We had a hilarious morning Wednesday last creating paper clay beasties who have to be seen to be believed. We particularly enjoyed advising Ceri upon the finer points of Pan's completion. It was easy to see who were the most experienced in such things.

Marjorie Beecham 9844 3206

Painting

Don't forget the Bargain Sale, Sunday 6th August 10am to 4pm. Paintings to be delivered to the hall by 9am. Paintings framed and unframed. Oil paintings, water colours and pastels to be mounted and covered in cellophane. I would appreciate it, if you could let me know whether you are taking part.

Pauline Cross 9439 1775

Craft

At our July meeting the different talents of our members was abundant. Of the six members present, Isobel was hand sewing heritage nighties which can be made with lawn, voile or muslin. Linda was creating beautiful beaded jewellery with very fine thread and seed beads. Trish was knitting a jumper in a vibrant orange textured wool. Ronda was beading hand dyed silk for making cards. Rosemary was knitting a picture jumper consisting of a landscape design with many frolicking sheep.

Our next meeting will be held at the Hall on Monday 21st August at 11.30am.

Rosemary Climas 9844 2154

Music

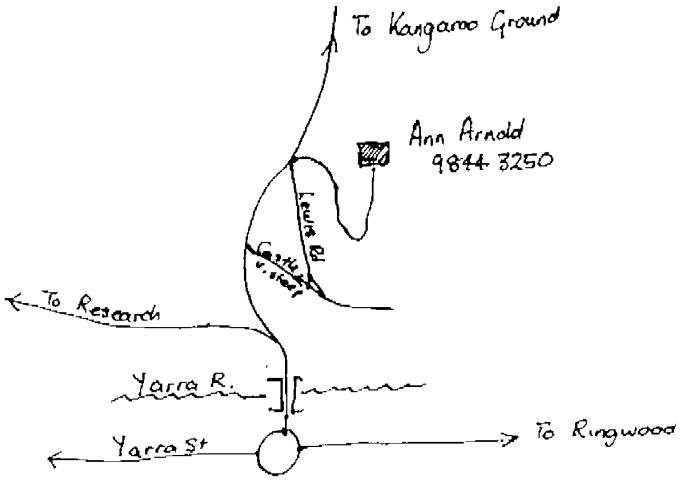
Saturday, 15th July was the wettest day we have had for many weeks. A misty, dark, wet night – not very conducive for anyone to leave the comfort of their own home to go searching for a Warrandyte house in the dark and wondering if there will be anywhere to park etc etc. We had had several apologies from regulars, and a few phone calls revealed that others who, on the night of the 50th birthday celebration, had said they would come, had not written the date down etc etc.

Tired ourselves from a busy day, we set off up the road with 'cello, some supper and a huge box of music – just in case. As is often the case when you are expecting the worst, the evening turned out to be most enjoyable. First, the venue – a lovely, big house, very easy to find because of the well-lit gate and very easy parking. Pat and Tony Young are wonderful hosts and a glass of red in this warm house soon made us forget the miserable weather outside.

Then, the people who turned up really contributed to a very pleasant evening. There was Ann Arnold, our founder member from 1955, and Katrina Halliday, all of 9 months pregnant, introducing our potentially youngest member to the sound of music. We were pleased to welcome new member, Cath Andrews and her husband Peter and very pleased to see Doug Macrae with his daughter Cathy. Cathy used to play for us a few years ago while still at school and, like many young students, has hardly touched her flute since leaving school. However, she hadn't lost her touch (or should I say embouchure) and played beautifully. There must be others out there who miss playing now that they have left school. This is an avenue we should pursue.

Altogether, with all our regulars, we had 5 pianists, 2 violinists, a flautist, 2 'cellists and 2 vocalists, as well as several listeners/support team. There was a pleasant mixture of music, quite a bit of it unrehearsed and quite a bit with a modern, E. European flavour. It was good to have the variation provided by the singers. Doug sang *"If I were a Rich Man"* from *Fiddler on the Roof*, and would no doubt have sung more if he hadn't had to leave early to sort out a burglary at the school where he is principal. Veronique again sang one of her own compositions. This time, she had an accompaniment written out which, when played sympathetically by Margaret on violin, made a lovely sound together with voice. Keep it up Veronique.

Supper, as usual, was yummy (glass plate from last time still not claimed!!)



The next night will be at the Arnold's in Kangaroo Ground on Saturday, 9th September. I'll be away for the August newsletter, so make sure you put this in your diary now, but make sure you ring during the week before to let us know whether or not you are coming and to check whether or not there has been a change of venue or for parking instructions. Ann's drive is steep and parking is a bit tight at the top. The beauty of Ann's house, though, is the fact that she has 2 pianos and I have found a piece for 8 hands!

See you there

Theatre

September production:

Honour by Joanna Murray-Smith.

The actors for this production are:

Raine Dinale:	Honour
Bill Connolly:	George: - Honour's husband. An attractive youthful man - late fifties
Kate Warner:	Sophie: - their 24 year old daughter
Becca Posterino:	Claudia: - a striking young woman in her late twenties

Congrats to all and welcome to Becca and Kate who are new to the company.

George and Honour, middle aged and well to do couple, have a contented, comfortable and settled life - a perfect marriage. George meets Sophie and very suddenly the lives of at least three are filled with uncertainty, confusion and distress.

Performance Dates: 7, 8, 9 14, 15, 16 September

BTW. Below is a link to a review of the play performed by a Co in the US. (I Google everything these days.) It makes amusing reading. Note that the character George was renamed Gus for the US market. We are not sure why. I wonder if it has anything to do with Bush?

http://ww.culturevulture.net/Theater8/Honour.htm

Play reading:

FRIDAY 11th August 7.30 pm the Hall – Bring your grog and nibbles.

Phyl Swindley will be leading the reading of "*Speaking in Tongues*" by Andrew Bovill. Clever interlocking structure writes one reviewer. A quick read through this play about "the language of relationships" suggest that this will be fun to read.

And again. We are looking for ideas, suggestions etc for an End of Year production 2006. Are there any directors stepping up?

The next committee meeting of WTC is 31st July at Deb Silva's. It does not have to be restricted to the committee. Let us know if you wish to come along and contribute. Call one of us first please. Cheers

Adrian Rice 9844 1528

Jock's instant masterpiece from the 50th - the right way up!

"Potter's Folly" in the making...

The first day of Term 1 2006 set the pattern for the rest of the year. After a lot of discussion, we decided to scrap the totem pole idea for celebrating WAA's 50th and to create two (actually we originally thought four, little knowing what was really involved) whimsical figures.

Jan Smidt arrived the very next week with the first armature. And so our journey of discovery began. With an enthusiastic team of potters plus Noelle Burgess, without whom we would never have finished in time for the party. Each of the potters proved to have a special gift:

- Doris did the heads, hair and faces
- Marion, Noelle & I made the hats and flowers
- Jan was in charge of measurements and decorating the clothes
- Ceri made the most beautiful hands and other pieces for sleeves
- Melissa worked hard on the bodies
- Joan made the feet and painted the fish net stockings and mosaic-ed the man's hat
- Fay helped with the tiles for the base
- Val worked on arms and parts of the clothes

As each large piece was completed, it had to be refined, decorated, air dried and fired, glazed and fired again. By the last 3 weeks, Noelle and I were working up to 8 & 9 hours a day – Sat. and Sun as well. Doug Smidt proved to be a tower of strength. Not only did he answer our frantic calls for help when the pieces wouldn't fit, he also had a most positive approach, encouraging us to persevere when we were feeling low. I guess this is why he is such a wonderful school teacher. He has that special ability to see all the positives and to ignore the negatives. Doug and John Anderson also poured the concrete slab and set the armatures in place. Oddly enough, I remember thinking that once that was done, we were home and hosed. Little did I know we had scarcely begun. Fitting two unsympathetic solids together – ie steel and fired ceramic – is a task I do not recommend. Philip Taylor was also a tower of strength and support to me about the stresses and other important considerations when joining two surfaces together.

All the afore-mentioned have contributed so much to the "*Potters' Folly*", but Noelle Burgess is the one we really need to thank. Unknowingly she was dragged into the creation. Without her knowledge and constant support I doubt it would eve have been completed.

The memories linger on.

Jenny Harkin Part 111...

Some members will recall the stiflingly hot night the Drama Group met at the Hall, briefly, on Ash Wednesday. A hot northerly wind was blowing, carrying ash and the smell of smoke and apprehension. That suddenly changed to fear when the lights went out and we fled to our homes, not knowing how near or far the danger. Warrandyte was extremely fortunate on that occasion. In the extreme there were many chill nights throughout the Winter months when no amount of woolly clothing, layers of jumpers, socks, scarves, duffle coats and ugg boots could protect against the cold. The heating system consisted of our ancient, wheezing, very temperamental bottled gas heaters. These, of course, could never remain 'on' during performances because of their incessant complaining noise

For some time in the '80's I served as the WAA SECRETARY, despite having no office or typing skills, just enthusiasm. The Minutes were taken in longhand, then copied, courtesy of Loftus-Hills, Harkin and Ziersch, for distribution by hand prior to the next meeting. This was undertaken a) to remind members of the date of the next meeting, and b] as a reminder of the tasks each member had promised to do, prior to that date!!

During this period, the Newsletter was laboriously produced on a cantankerous Gestetner machine, housed in a small timber garden shed in the grounds of Landfall.

Early in the 1980's the annual ball was revived. In fact the 25th celebration of W AA was commemorated by holding a Silver Ball. The Hall was transformed into a glittering Ballroom by the Beechams, Burgess' and others with decorating flair, and The Canadian Big Band played as couples sparkled on the dance floor. Each table of guests was themed. Fran Batrouney galvanized our lot into activity, creating silver top hats and canes for the gentlemen to wear with their dinner suits, whilst the ladies rejuvenated old ball gowns with as much silver thread, sequins and shimmer as possible. The Virtue party, on the other hand were futuristic in silver space suits from head to toe, helmet, boiler suit, gloves and boots. It was indeed a spectacular event.

One of our fund-raising efforts was a wine bottling. Now that was a great sub-committee to join! This task necessitated spending a pleasant Saturday morning in Carlton, wine tasting, selecting a variety of jaunty young wines that we hoped would cellar well and sell well to the members and friends. Wine tasting creates quite an appetite, plus a certain lethargy, so what better than finishing with a lengthy "*Donnini*" lunch before wending our way home? Several weeks later a much larger contingent joined forces to bottle, cork, label and box our order before enjoying a sumptuous barbecue in the winery garden.

Food and wine have always played a significant role in the activities of the association. A Winters' Music Night at the Andersons was suitably complemented by copious quantities of aromatic, spicy mulled wine. Therefore it's not surprising that eventually two remarkable Cook Books came into being. I was not around for the first edition, but remember well the production of *"Other Wheys of Warrandyte"*. These volumes are absolute gems, and epitomise the social life and hospitality of Warrandyte at that time, and have traveled "far and wide", as Cliff Green states. (They made excellent gifts for school teachers, friends, family and host families in Denmark!!!)

Louise Joy...

At a musical BBQ in my home in January 2006, we kicked up the carpets and danced to Neville Turner of the weekly Warburton Hotel jazz trio, once he started playing Viennese waltzes. Dust was revealed so I grabbed a broom which Yvonne lifted from me, sweeping across the floor with her new "partner" in Isadora Duncan style.

In the nineteen forties, Yvonne began studying creative dance with Viennese émigré Hanny Kolm, later a lecturer in movement at the Institute of Early Childhood Development and married to Bob Exiner. Yvonne started Creative Dancing in Warrandyte in 1957, continuing for twenty-three years. At the Warrandyte Arts Association 50th Anniversary celebrations on 27 May 2006, Yvonne was surrounded by some of her former pupils. Now beautiful sparkling women, some of them had been in the young adults Experimental Dance Group of the sixties and seventies, as well as in the children's groups.

Modestly in the background, Irving was cracking witticisms, a sort of hybrid John Cleese, Laurence Olivier and stern schoolmaster, an extraordinary lean elegant figure. Praised by Jenny Harkin, in the May WAA newsletter, for his auditioning her in *The Insect Play*, how could she forget him? Through Irving, she had her first role as a butterfly. Looming over the Isadora Duncan dancing in my home, was Irving's portrait of my father at the Christian Medical College Vellore South India.

Having been painting portraits since childhood, Irving painted in 1973, pathologist, Professor Edward Gault, retired in Warrandyte; in 1976, Lexie Goyder, Warrandyte's early architect and one of the first women journalists in Australia; in 2006, Bud Tingwell, whose great portrait, Irving was lugging around at the WAA 50th

celebrations. Years before, Bud had been indirectly instrumental in Irving playing cameo roles in the Sullivans and Homicide. He decided to call it a day as his students at Ivanhoe Grammar were sometimes confused by the dual nature of their maths teacher whom they might see from time to time on TV.

Yvonne and Irving were involved with street theatre in a poetic piece put on by Warrandyte Theatrekids to draw attention to the threat to Koornong. Pam Hipwell, Jo Laurence and Patrick Nuzum were among the organisers; it was in fact the precursor to the Warrandyte Festival which was begun by some of the same people the next year.

Warrandyte Theatrekids, an extension of the dance classes and extending to include many boys, presented *The Wizard of Warrandyte*. This was a full three act play which had two seasons (one in the sixties and one in the seventies), playing to packed houses for several performances each season. Theatrekids was also involved in a Victoria wide drama competition for primary schools, which it won with the play, *Gliders and Spirits*, performed at her Majesty's Theatre in 1975.

Warrandyte was a cultural magnet for Melbourne's theatre goers. In 1959 Irving played Oberon in *Midsummer Night's Dream* for which Yvonne did the choreography. In 1964 Yvonne played Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and in 1965 Irving was Othello (while Yvonne played Emilia, Iago's wife). Both won State wide awards in the Victorian Drama League One Act Play festivals, Yvonne as Best Actress in 1958 and in the winning play, *The Ring of General Macias* in 1959 ?, Irving was Runner-up to Best Actor in 1962. These were the years when J. C. Williamsons was heavily into pot boilers and culture was served by an occasional visit of the Royal Shakespeare Company from England, every decade or so.

Harold Baigent continued to direct Shakespeare in Warrandyte. Absurdist plays were performed such as Enid Bird's production of N.F. :Simpson's *The Resounding Tinkle*; Irving's production of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* and Edward Albee's *The American Dream*. When Stewart and I returned to Warrandyte, after seven years on and off of London theatre, we descended on Irving Reid and Tim Sherwood in *Rosencrantz and Guidenstern are Dead*. Absolutely stunning. The West End could learn a thing or two from Warrandyte! Impossible to grasp all that verbal by play but the wit and angularity of the acting leapt off the stage.

In the golden sunshine, after Jo Laurence's funeral, I was reliving my memories with Tony Irving, one of the early WAA actors, who had come to pay his respects to Jo. I think she would have been pleased that we were still glowing from Yvonne's tribute, insisting on Jo's spirit still with us and alive. I think Jo would have been pleased too that we remembered 86 year old Lexie Blake, who had kept the Ringwood Mail informed of WAA productions and handled all the publicity with aplomb. Jo knew the importance of keeping the public informed.

With all the disasters around the world; war, hurricanes and earthquakes, isn't it time we returned to Shakespeare in Warrandyte? Irving would make a splendid Lear and Yvonne could lead the witches in Macbeth.

From the archives.

THE MAIL. THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1956.

Naughty but Nice

YET another milestone in Warrandyte's colorful history was passed on Saturday when the newly formed Arts Association Drama Group presented its first play to an audience which went with it every step of the way.

This typical English comedy by John Dighton, is slightly naughty, but oh so nice; and deals with the fun and games which occur at Hilary Hall, a school for boys in Hampshire, when the Minister of Education, bungling a wartime billet, sends down St. Swithin's (one of these advanced schools for girls of all ages) to share bed, board and classrooms at the hall.

The rafters of Warrandyte Hall rung, echoed and possibly shook with laughter from the rise of the first curtain till the fall at the finish. The Drama Group's first performance was a winner, in anybody's language.

And its players showed such capacity that the dream of Miss Helen Paterson (the power behind the Arts Association) that Warrandyte-on-Yarra may be another drama and musical festival centre is not such a pipe dream as it sounds.

The play was produced by Tony Toogood who showed a pretty sense of timing and as pretty a sense of comedy in his own performance of Rubert Billings (known to the boys as Daisy).

As Evelyn Whitchurch, head mistress of St Swithin's Lex Emery proved herself an actress in the best Margaret Rutherford tradition.

In the junketings which ensue when she and Miss Gossage discover the hideous situation the Ministry had let them in for, the comedy is fast and furious and it is obvious that in Lex Emery and Jean Tisdale (Miss Gossage), the Drama Group has two first-rate comediennes.

The juniors (Hopcroft Minor of Hilary Hall) and Barbara Cahoun (of St. Swithin's) were excellently done by Sonja Stewart whose short fair hair was pasted down in the best small-boy tradition, and Yvonne Mitchell, hero-worshipping the glamorous maths mistress, Joyce Harper (Val. McIlraith)

Dick Tassell (Hilary Hall sports master who falls for Joyce Harper) and Rainbow (the Hilary Hall porter and groundsman) were well done by Gus McLaren and Alan Tisdale while Ronald Golding as Godfrey Pond was a convincingly harassed headmaster.

When a brace of parents arrive unexpectedly the tangled web of deception become so hopelessly involved that Miss Whitchurch finds herself the blushing bride of the head master and the mother of offspring 15 years of age.

But confusion, between the parents of boys and girls respectively, rapidly becomes worse confounded by the advent of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Sowter (a hopelessly respectable pair played by Leonard Allen and Enid Bird).

Their worst suspicions look like being confirmed when the Ministry plays its final card — unloading on hapless Hilary Hall a further scholastic consignment—an Academy for Backward Boys and Forward Girls.

Stage manager and dialogue director were Beth Christeson and Joan Robinson; lighting by Bruce Kennedy. Ed. Domeyer was make up man and good at it. Leone Horkinsg was stage assistant and business manager and front of the house manager were John Emery and Gwen Barber.

Nice work, Warrandyte.

An Artful Dodge

No sooner has
The Artful Dodger
Appeared in Warrandyte
than The Age
comes up with
Charlotte von Mahlsdorf
East German transvestite spy
a bit dodgy about her past
so the dramatist included
himself as a character
which might have been
an artful dodge

who's picking
whose pockets now?
Fagin would see a glimmer
of hope as his
best swaggering apprentice
carried his skills to Australia
transported for life

The Age Arts and Culture Wed July 1, 2006 p.19
Review: I Am My Own Wife
Malthouse 12-07-2006 to 19-08-2006

Doug Wright's play about a cross- dressing German spy became an unlikely hit

Charles Dickens arranges in Chapter 8 for Oliver Twist to meet Jack Dawkins, a peculiar pet and protege of the elderly gentleman before mentioned... and furthermore avowed that among his intimate friends he was better known by the *sobriquet* of "The artful Dodger".

By chapter 43 the Dodger was in the dock swaggering like an early incarnation of Saddam Hussein, *"I'm an Englishman, ain't I? Where are my privileges?"…grinning in the officer 's face with great glee and self-approval, "transportation for life" predicted his master Fagin with pride.*

Shoeing it in
Poetry well hardly
Reviews of a sort
Commentary too grand-
Mother
Some observations for
The Artful Dodger

Books: The Big Three (try the Warraadyte elibrary)

Shakespeare
Peter Ackeroyd, in his imaginative *Shakespeare, The Biography* (Doubleday 2005) brilliantly explores the terrain of looking for collateral when there's not much to go on.Was Shakespeare exposed to "pageantry and seeming" as a child? Well, we don't know, but an exact contemporary had memories as a five year old

At such a play, my father tooke me with him and made mee stand between his legges, as he sate upon one of the benches, where we saw and heard very wel.

Freud
Warm, affectionate, caring, enthusiastic, hopeful empathic and, above all, accepting and understanding of others. He was also boyish and childlike, with an endearing playfulness and naivete.
This was not a description of Sigmund Freud but of his expelled disciple Sandor Ferenczi who influenced Carl Rogers and counselling practice in Australia.

Clear eye of psychoanalyst Louis Breger (John Wiley & Sons 2000) giving us *Freud: darkness in the midst of vision.*

The Bible
It's a steal at $19.95 from Koorong Book Shop (telephone card order 9262 7444)
King James Version New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Nelson 1996)

Steal: Thou shalt not s. *Exodus 20:15*
Where thieves break through and s. *Matthew 6:19*

Everything you half remembered and did not know where to find.

Film: ***The break-up***

Written, produced, directed, acted or something like that by Vince Vaughn and
Jennifer Anniston, taking the role as all the world heard, read, saw her break up
from Brad Pitt

We weren't expecting much
Banal in the extreme
But no
How did they do it?
Romantic comedy spilling
To farce
With some great lines
Depth too on gender lines
Her exasperation
His astonishment
Excruciating revenge
We gasp in recognition

Not churned out but crafted
Worth four stars
Maybe three and a half

Old Favourite:
Fiddler an the Roof (Her Majesty's Theatre, Exhibition Street 07-07-2006)

A Macedonian wedding exhibition in the Mill Park Library
Grainy black and white photographs in early Australia
Tradition as Topol sang in the Russian Jewish village

Longing for tradition in Melbourne's west
Anglo Australian artists created their wedding
Of men nurturing the groom
Women streaming by the bride

And everyone brought a picnic lunch

Subscriptions

Thanks for a good response to paying 2006 subs. If your'e still outstanding (don't have a (P) beside your name on the address label) please attend.

Mail my Dodger!

Got some responses about getting the newsletter by email, but not many! So to repeat, you get it earlier, in colour, and save the cost and tedium of printing, folding, labelling and posting. Just send an email to *alan@commercialventure.com.au* with your name and "Email Dodger please" in the subject, and the next issue will bounce into your inbox with a cheery *brrring!* So don't be an old codger, email your Dodger!"

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SURFACE

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